DECLASSIFIED

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 17, 1953

Anne O'Hare McCormick came to see me this morning. She has in my opinion the best balanced judgment of any columnist of any country on European affairs. She is a firm supporter of European unity movements but is not convinced the French will not continue to refuse to confront their responsibilities and make an unequivocal decision on the EDC and the EPC.

Blankenhorn called on me. He had come to Paris to deliver a letter from the Chancellor along the lines the Chancellor had discussed with Jim Conant and myself last week. Bidault had talked to him frankly, or so it appeared.

There is a great row going on in the French Cabinet as to what instructions should be given to the French Delegation for the Rome Political Community meeting commencing September 22. The Quai d'Orsay officials, apparently with Bidault's support, would like to do away with the supranational executive authority, or at least thoroughly subordinate it to a national Council of Ministers. They submitted a draft to the Cabinet in this sense which provoked the violent opposition of Reynaud, Teitgen, Pleven, Mutter and others.

I told Blankenhorn, as I had previously told the Chancellor and Hallstein, that although the United States was not directly interested in the Political Community, it would seem clear to us that such a community, dominated by national Ministers subject to the orders of their own particular countries, would not only be ineffective but [redacted] likely to destroy in the long run the supranational standing of the Coal and Steel Community and of the Defense Community if the latter comes into being. Bidault told Blankenhorn that his attitude was motivated by a desire to attract some 30 Gaullist votes in Parliament for the support of EDC ratification. He did not explain to Blankenhorn the complications such a maneuver would entail in regard to the votes of the Socialists and even of many members of the MRP. We have received private

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
PREVIEWED BY CEC DATE 7-1-81
XDS or XDS EXT. DATE
REVIEW (3)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

word that Teitgen feels so strongly on this subject that he has told Bidault if the Foreign Minister persists in his attitude Teitgen will attempt to have him disciplined by his own MRP party. To put it mildly, the French Cabinet is confused and split on this question.

An additional complication is that Laniel, who has been invited by the President to visit the United States and who is desirous of going, has after sharp contention with Bidault postponed or cancelled - it is not clear which - his proposed trip. I know Bidault considers Laniel's presence in the United States at this time would be inopportune since it would be linked with the charge that American pressure was being exercised on him to ratify EDC. However, unkind tongues say neither Laniel nor Bidault, both of whom are presumably aspirants for the presidency of the Republic, would like the other to derive the political advantage a trip to the United States under favorable circumstances might provide. The same gossip attributes this reason to Bidault's insistence that by one method or another he might secure 30 Gaullist votes for EDC ratification in the National Assembly. Such favorable votes are viewed by many observers as chimerical. Since the President of the Republic will be elected in November by the members both of the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers, and since the latter is a much more conservative body than the former, there are skeptics who feel any pretender to the presidency would be politically well advised not to commit himself wholeheartedly now to an outright advocacy of EDC as this would almost certainly cost him a large number of Rightist votes that he might otherwise be able to obtain by seeming to follow a course of procrastination and vacillation.

The result of all this and other factors is that no one really knows what the final policy of the French Government will be towards the two remaining

DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CEC DATE 7-1-81
E.O. or XDS EXT. DATE
EXEMPTION(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED

European integration movements.

Adenauer has offered the French Government a wonderful opportunity to recapture its lost leadership in these fields but if it does not do so shortly the general impatience in the rest of the free world with French weakness and instability will reassert itself in still stronger terms.

Preston Grover and Pat Moran of the Associated Press called on me and we discussed European affairs.

I left at 4:00 o'clock this afternoon in John Hughes' plane for Luxembourg. He took with him E., Mardi, Doug Dillon, Livie Merchant, Johnny Jones, and Millar as well as Mr. Buchanan, who has just been given an interim appointment as Minister to Luxembourg. Buchanan is in his thirties. [redacted] He was born in Texas, where apparently he has large interests, but spends most of his time at his home in Washington. He is making a quick tour of his new domain and is returning next Monday to Washington to collect his wife, three children, dogs, and a palomino pony, the last of which he intends to have flown to his new post in an air freighter.

E. and I went to the Hotel Brasseur, [redacted] then wheeled around to attend a cocktail party, which was lots of fun, given by Buchanan at the Legation residence. The host was receiving his guests before he had had an opportunity even to go upstairs in his house and find out what accommodations existed there.

Tonight E., Tommy and I went out to have dinner with Jean Monnet at his house about ten minutes distant from the capital city. We talked late into the night about the EDC and the EPC.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CEC DATE 7-1-81
or XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTION

DECLASSIFIED